

# Drawing Conclusions for Evidence

Students need help linking thought into a coherent and organized way. This lesson can be adapted to all grades.

## Objectives:

1. Examine information and draw logical conclusions about patterns
2. Express a logical and coherent claim by citing relevant data.
3. Interpreting data beyond surface impressions.
4. Model a process for converting raw information to analyzed data.

## Materials:

1. Post-It Notes
2. Labeled charts

## Sequence:

1. Explain to the students that you would like to get to know each of them, so you have come up with a way to get a sense of who they are by the television programs they watch.
2. Distribute the Post-It notes and ask each student to write the names of the television programs they have watched this week (one per Post-It).
3. Have students share their programs with the person sitting on either side. Discuss the programs on the sticky notes.
4. Allow another 5 minutes to write down any programs forgotten and triggered by the discussion with the partners.
5. Tell the group that these Post-It notes become the data set.
6. Ask each person to post each sticky note under the category headings on the walls.
7. Ask students what these charts tell them about what teachers watch on television. You may want to count the number in each category for further information on which

## A Model for Reasoning

to make judgments.

8. As students make their judgments, the teacher will write these on the board or overhead.
9. Consider the types of answers given to determine if the judgments are conclusive or not  
For example: Is it fair to say teachers enjoy certain types of television based on the number in a given category? What might be another explanation? (i.e. children, spouse, work, research, etc.)
10. Help students move from generating and analyzing data to writing about their interpretation.

Adapted from Smagorinsky, P., Johannessen, K. R., Kahn, E. A., & McCann, T. M. (2011). *Teaching Students to Write Argument* (pp. 5-11). Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

